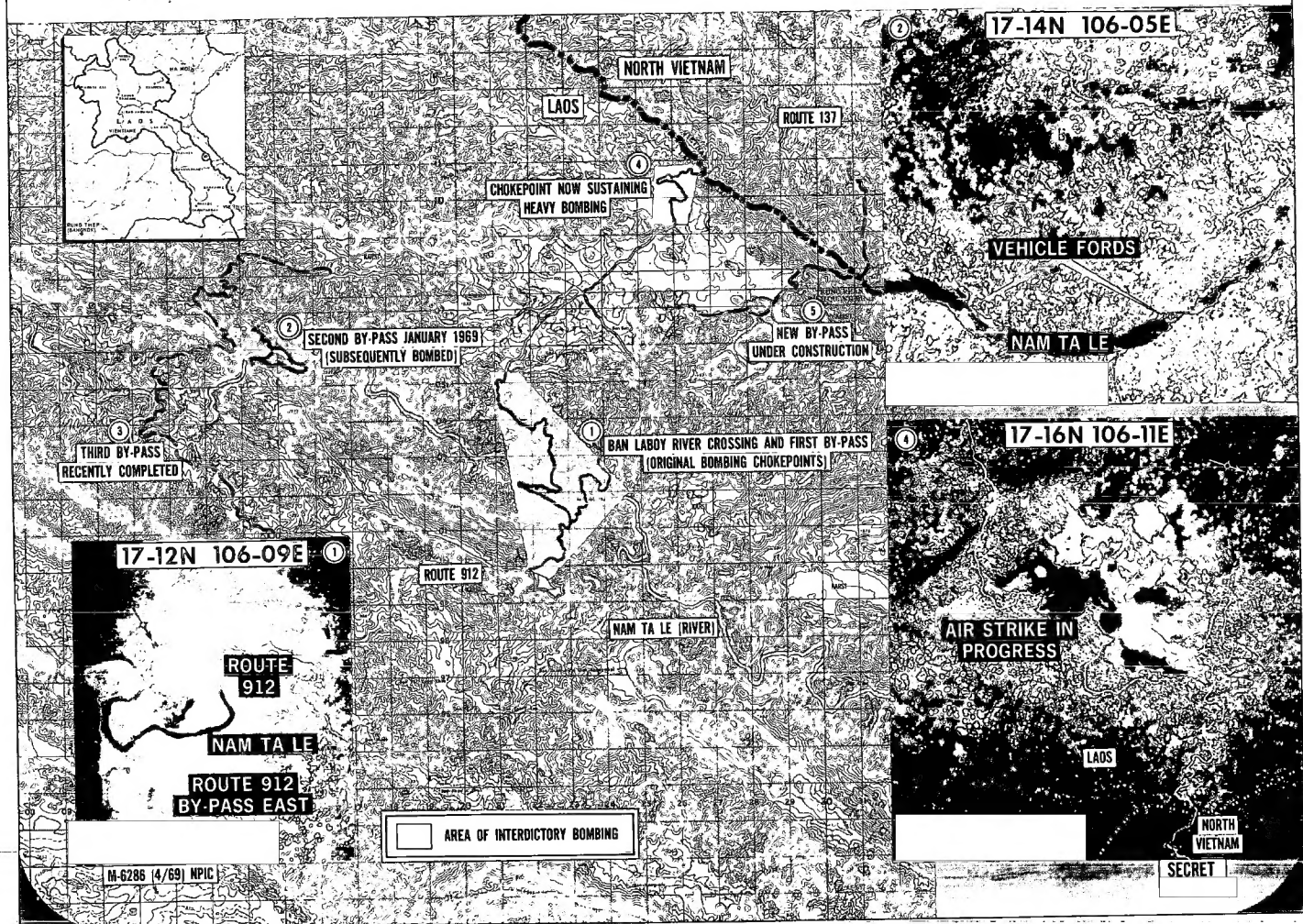


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**BY-PASS ROAD CONSTRUCTION
ROUTE 912, BAN LABOY AREA
LAOS**



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BY-PASS ROAD CONSTRUCTION
ROUTE 912, BAN LABOY AREA
LAOS

1. SIGNIFICANCE: THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS CONTINUING BY-PASS CONSTRUCTION ON ROUTE 912, IN AN EFFORT TO MAINTAIN SERVICEABILITY THROUGH THE BAN KARAI/BAN LABOY AREA.
2. LOCATION: THE NVN ROUTE 137/LAOS ROUTE 912 NETWORK THROUGH BAN KARAI PASS IS ONE OF THREE MOTORABLE ROUTES INTO THE LAOTIAN PANHANDLE FROM NORTH VIETNAM.
3. BACKGROUND: IN AN EFFORT TO OFFSET INCREASED U.S. INTERDICTORY BOMBING IN LAOS SINCE THE BOMBING HALT IN NORTH VIETNAM, THE ENEMY HAS INCREASED HIS EFFORTS TO KEEP THE ROADS IN THE LAOTIAN PANHANDLE SERVICEABLE.
4. MISSION READOUT: DEPICTED ON THIS BOARD IS THE OVER-ALL REACTION TO U.S. AIRSTRIKES IN THE BAN LABOY AREA SINCE THE END OF THE SOUTHWEST RAINY SEASON IN THE FALL, 1968. AT THAT TIME LAOS ROUTE 912, WITH ITS FIRST BY-PASS AND ALTERNATE RIVER CROSSINGS, EXTENDED THROUGH THE IMMEDIATE BAN LABOY AREA. INSET I PORTRAYS THE BAN LABOY AREA AS OF [REDACTED] FOLLOWING THE 1 NOVEMBER 1968 BOMBING HALT IN NORTH VIETNAM, BAN LABOY WAS SUBJECTED TO SUCH INTENSE BOMBING THAT FOR EXTENDED PERIODS ROUTE 912 IN THIS AREA WAS SERVICEABLE ONLY TO FOOT TRAFFIC.

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IN [REDACTED] THE ENEMY BEGAN TO CONSTRUCT A SECOND BY-PASS WEST OF BAN LABOY. THIS BY-PASS WITH TWO RIVER CROSSINGS WAS COMPLETED IN

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PAGE 2MISSION READOUT: (CONT.)

[] DURING AND FOLLOWING ITS CONSTRUCTION, INTENSIVE AIRSTRIKES
WERE LEVIED ON THESE NAM TA LE RIVER CROSSINGS. INSET II PORTRAYS THE RIVER
CROSSINGS AND SHOWS THE EFFECTS OF THE AIRSTRIKES AS OF []

THE CONSISTENTLY HEAVY AIRSTRIKES AGAINST THE SECOND BY-PASS AND THE
REOPENED BAN LABOY AREA FORCED THE ENEMY TO CONSTRUCT A THIRD BY-PASS STILL
FURTHER WEST. THIS NEW ROAD EXTENDS SOUTH FROM THE BAN LABOY BY-PASS WEST
AT 17-15-20N 106-05-45E (XE164080), CROSSES THE NAM TA LE RIVER AT XE112037,
AND JOINS ROUTE 912 AT 17-11-33N 106-04-49E (XE148010). THIS BY-PASS WAS
COMPLETED IN [] SEE AREA ANNOTATED #3.

TO COUNTER THE ENEMY'S BY-PASS ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN THE BAN LABOY AREA,
U.S. PLANES BEGAN TO BOMB ROUTE 912 AT A POINT 4 NAUTICAL MILES NORTH OF
BAN LABOY NEAR THE NORTH VIETNAM BORDER. INSET IV PORTRAYS THIS CHOKEPOINT
WITH AN AIRSTRIKE IN PROGRESS.

AS A RESULT OF THIS ACTIVITY, THE ENEMY IS NOW CONSTRUCTING STILL ANOTHER
BY-PASS TO CIRCUMVENT THIS CHOKEPOINT. THE 5 NAUTICAL MILE BY-PASS EXTENDS
SOUTH FROM 17-16-57N 106-13-55E (XE309110) IN NORTH VIETNAM, CROSSES THE BORDER
AT XE311028 AND THEN EXTENDS WEST TO THE END OF PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE AT
17-14-47N 106-11-20E (XE263070). NO VEHICLE TRACKS ARE OBSERVED ON THE BY-PASS.
EXTENSIVE TRELLISING IS EVIDENT ON THE NORTHERN SEGMENT. THE NORTHERN HALF
OF THIS ROAD IS IN NORTH VIETNAM, MAKING IT IMMUNE TO AIRSTRIKES AT THE PRESENT
TIME.

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5. COLLATERAL: LAOS ROUTE 912, ONE OF THE MAJOR INFILTRATION AND SUPPLY ROUTES FOR MEN AND SUPPLIES FROM NORTH VIETNAM INTO LAOS, SUPPORTS A HEAVY VOLUME OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC. DESPITE REPEATED BOMBING, THE FLOW OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC HAS CONTINUED TO RISE DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS, AND THE LEVEL GENERALLY COINCIDES WITH THAT OF LAST YEAR DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

[REDACTED]
MAP (UTM) REFERENCES: AMS SERIES L7015, SHEET 6243 III, 3RD ED.
AMS SERIES L7014, SHEET 6243 IV, 4TH ED.

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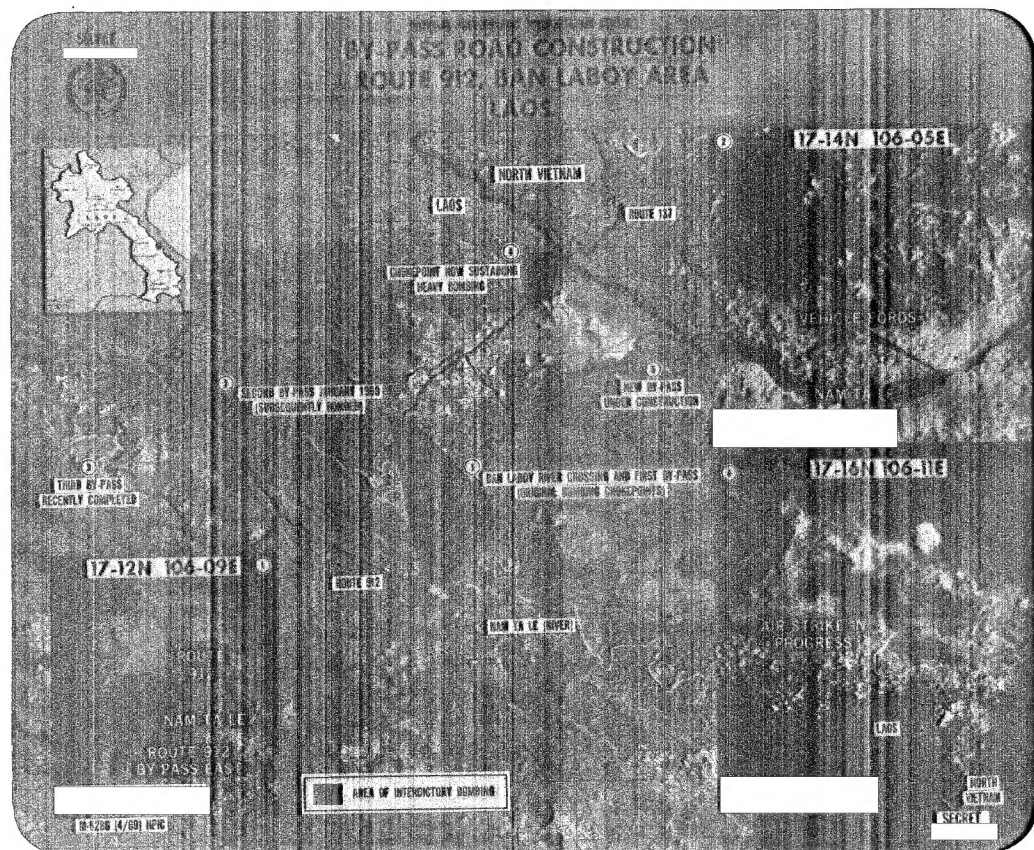
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